?:Hernández de Alba E-5,4 (no date) 1946 SC15 Paez SC15
Moguex



obliquely across the rocks; (3) an arched bridge of bamboo floored with spaced sticks, equipped with a hand rail on each side, and supported with stones, bamboo braces, and vines (pl. 185, *bottom, right*); and (4) a covered bridge with thatched roof, built of heavy logs supported by sticks and stones and floored with boards—a marvel of calculated strength, which, like the third type, is made entirely of vegetable materials yet can support loaded animals. To build an arched bridge, two groups of Indians approach opposite sides of the river and each plants a long, strong pole sloping out over the stream. The chief of each group then climbs out his pole until his weight bends it down to meet that from the opposite side, whereupon, clinging with one hand, they lash the ends together with creepers. This constitutes the main element of the bridge which is then completed by the other Indians.

491 499 499

### TRANSPORTATION

Some Indians now have horses and use them for traveling and for transporting large burdens, but, in general, transportation is by foot, objects being carried on the back or in netted sacks hung by a strap, especially when visiting markets. A woman carries not only a heavy load but her small child suspended on her back in a blue woolen blanket held with a broad woven band, or "chumbe." Peculiarly Andean is the custom that the man travels on horseback while the woman follows on foot with a large burden.

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### DRESS AND ORNAMENTS

The *Moguex* and *Páez* formerly wore only small cotton blankets (mantas), although most of them "went about naked even on the cold mountains" (Rodríguez, 1684, bk. 2, ch. 1). They painted their bodies with bixa, using, according to Del Castillo i Orozco, stamps to apply the color. The paint also protected them against the strong sunlight and insects. They went barefoot, as all the natives in Colombia. According to one chronicler, their hair was "shorn" (Robledo, *in* Jijón y Caamaño, 1936–38). They wore breast and nose ornaments of pure gold or a gold and copper alloy, and necklaces of small figures, beads, small stones, and snails.

291 302 [751] [825] [291] 301

Soon after the beginning of the Conquest, the Indians commenced to use wide, long shirts of a very crude weave and hats which were so closely woven that they would hold water. The latter, which the Spaniards called "tacillas de Páez" (Páez bowls), are still in use. The Spanish encomenderos required that the Indians working on their haciendas near Popayán be dressed. This was the origin of the characteristic garment worn today, which combines the old small blanket (manta) with European dress. *Moguex* men wear short linen pants, and a blue flannel sash which covers them to their knees.

291 177

/233 cont./

called Juan Tama, who enjoys the fame of having been the founder of pueblos, a victorious warrior, a good leader, legislator, and famed curer.

The tama is a defensive and offensive weapon of a sacred character /234/ and used exclusively by the curers; it protects from the attacks of the ptans and wards them off. It is a gift from Thunder and his badge. In visions, it is the first thing that he shows. When the curer dies, it may be inherited by a young curer, but generally it is left near the cemetery.

A curer from Calderas, possibly the one most imbued with his mission to defend the health of the people, states that the tama was left from a deed performed by the Virgin in defense of her children. On a certain occasion the sea was rising implacably over the surface of the earth, putting the lives of men in grave danger. The Virgin took pity on them, brought out the tama, and made the motions now made by the curer. The waters retreated. She left this staff for the man who became a curer. This was the origin of the tama.

Another curer from the Parcialidad of San Andrés gave us the following account concerning the origin of the tama:

"The elders say that the tama was left by Thunder himself. A man had a potato field and a rancho in the montaña. He went to harvest it with his son. One afternoon the boy refused to accompany his father, preferring to remain in the rancho. On the following day he disappeared without leaving a trace anywhere. All the steps taken by the father to locate his whereabouts were unsuccessful. On the eighth day, the boy reappeared in the rancho. The father naturally inquired as to his whereabouts and his activities. He replied that he had gone to the señor papa, who had given him the stick he carried in his hands, called tama, and aguardiente and remedies. The aguardiente was cold water from a lagoon, and the remedies were in a pouch. No sooner had he finished his tale than he fell into a deathlike trance. On the fifteenth day, at death's door, he asked his father to hand him the tama, for the señor

4:Bernal Villa--50 E-5 (1952-1953) 1953 SC15 Paez SC15

/215 cont./

## XXII

### A Bath for San Juan

796 At four o'clock in the morning on June 24, the men, women, and children are up in every household. In that of the fiestero the kitchen fire is burning, the food is being cooked, [541] and everyone is drinking and talking. Outside, in the darkness of the night, numerous lights are shooting upward, ending with a flash accompanied by an explosion: they are the skyrockets fired out of the huts. To each explosion are added the cries: San Juan! San Juan! San Juan!

796 On the previous day and in each of the houses, a jet of 515 water was arranged to serve as a shower. Now everyone bathes. This bath is accompanied by firecrackers and shouts. /216/ This is one of the few occasions when the native bathes. For, although it is true that in childhood baths are quite frequent, adults bathe only for the fiesta of San Juan, in the washing of the dead, or when they have fever.

796 The bath of San Juan has the purpose of preventing both 515 persons and the animals that belong to them from getting sores ●751 (scabies). Nevertheless, one of those who awoke in the house of the fiestero and who did not bathe palliates his fear: "I did not bathe. I have no animals. It does not matter if I get scabies."

--"You do have some, even if only 'two animals.' Bathe," replies his neighbor in a taunting, jesting tone.

--"I will bathe, but not my entire body, just my ...only."

The dialogue continues, loud and merry.

796 After the bath they catch a chicken. They all answer its squawks in chorus: San Juan, San Juan, San Juan. They [264] kill it. At six o'clock in the morning they are eating chicken stew.

In the house of the fiestero the following dialogue between parents is overheard as they hear their son crying:

/272 cont./

776 being -- in the valley, too, near the village. He is a raging foe
[784] of everything dirty. A hunter who has not washed himself and his ruana before hunting or whose wife is in the menstruation hut at the time will be punished by him. He has the figure of a human being, sometimes that of a man, but sometimes, too, that of a woman or a child. Gĕlyómp, as well as tũs and ec̆, can give a
776 person pest so that he will die. One can catch pest by himself
783 everywhere and on all occasions, no matter whether he is awake or
753 asleep. The pest of the three spirits mentioned is primarily caused by stings that not only enter the body, but also the soul. In the spot where they have entered the body they leave punctures that are red in color in the case of gĕlyómp, blue in the case of tũs, and black in the case of ec̆. The sicknesses caused by gĕlyómp manifest themselves by general pain caused by the penetration of one of his hairs. This happens in the following manner: Someone is walking along a path and suddenly feels a stinging pain in his arm or some other part of his body, like the prick of a pin. Although
[755] he cannot discover a puncture, the pain remains. The person therefore goes to the teyu, and he is able to remove the cause of the pain by rubbing his herbs over the affected spot until he re-
[761] moves from it a black hair ten to 15 centimeters long. This hair is from the gĕlyómp, and if the shaman had not removed it, the one
●[751] afflicted by it would have had to die. To a certain extent one can protect himself from the hairs of the mountain spirit if, when returning home from a walk over the mountains or a night's march, he passes a firebrand over the feet and body, in order to burn off any hair of the gĕlyómp that might have penetrated.

776 Tũs, the "rainbow," lives on the banks of watercourses and
753 especially at springs. There are many tũs, and, to be sure, wherever there is water. There are tũs as large as a snake, colored red and yellow, and others only the size of a finger. People recognize sicknesses /273/ of the tũs by the fact that the afflicted one is covered all over with pimples and has to scratch himself constantly.
[821] If it rains when the sun is shining, tũs goes from the bank of the river, where he lives, into the sky and from there back again to earth in a semicircle. The rainbow is especially dangerous for children.

/282 cont./

755 of the patient with water to which šũ and yakũma have been added
756 as medicinal herbs, so that he will now be completely freed of the
783 pest. Finally the teyu asks Thunder to prevent anyone from uncovering this hole in which the dangerous pest is buried. He further asks Thunder to help him in subsequent treatments of the sick later on. The patient is told that the signs are favorable, and he is again enjoined neither to use the medicines of the whites nor ever to pass this hole containing the pest.

● 757 Besides these two most important shamanistic ceremonies, the
756 treatment of the sick and the purification of the relatives after a
731 burial, the shaman's ability and his magical, supernatural powers are also called upon for preventive ceremonies and acts. This is particularly necessary if epidemics of disease -- smallpox, whooping cough -- occur in the village or in a family. In the first instance, the cabildo asks a shaman who is known to be able to speak with Thunder to conduct the proper protective ceremonies; in the latter instance, /283/ the oldest member of the afflicted family asks him. First a pig must be killed for this. A piece is cut from all the body organs on the left side, and everything is put into a new fiber
[782] bag. The shaman and the cabildo then set out in the afternoon for the lagoon in which Thunder is believed to live, in order to hand over to him the bag with the pieces of meat, with the request to avert the epidemic. During this time the women remaining behind have been preparing the rest of the meat for a meal, which, however, is eaten jointly only when, after twelve hours, the shaman and cabildo return from their ceremony.

756 For several cases of illness and death in one family the help of
783 a good shaman is likewise required. The pest is generally regarded
769 as the cause of these cases of death afflicting only one family, though according to a report by S. Bernal Villa, the deceased and angry members of the family are held responsible for this. In this case the eldest of the family provides brandy, coca, and tobacco, calls together the family members, and asks the shaman to come. The latter offers the angry ancestor spirits a fat pig that has first been tied in front of the house for a whole night, while the shaman during this time speaks to the spirits about whether they will accept the offering.